

# SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES & TRADITIONAL USES

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The allocation of fish and wildlife resources among competing users is managed through the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game, not by DNR. DNR does manage state lands which support subsistence resources and uses. DNR also authorizes other land uses, and some of these uses may conflict with subsistence activities or traditional uses. DNR has the responsibility to manage state lands for multiple use and resolve or mitigate conflicts among competing beneficial uses including traditional uses and subsistence activities. (See: AS 38.04.015 and AS 38.05.830)

## Goals

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**Maintain Land Base.** Maintain most land and water in public ownership and protect important resources that support subsistence activities and traditional uses.

**Ensure Access to Use Areas.** Maintain or enhance access to subsistence and traditional use areas.

**Support the Mixed Cash-Subsistence Economy.** Recognizing the subsistence economy in Northwest Alaska, contribute to the stability of the mixed cash and subsistence economy in the region by providing opportunities for resource development that are in balance with and accommodate traditional uses and subsistence resources and uses.

**Mitigate Adverse Effects.** Avoid or minimize interference with subsistence activities or traditional uses when authorizing land and water use activities.

## Management Guidelines

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**A. Avoid Conflicts with Traditional Uses of Resources.** Subsistence uses and traditional activities are one of the principal uses of state land within the planning area. Therefore, activities authorized by the department will avoid or minimize significant conflicts with traditional uses, subsistence activities and subsistence resources. Significant conflicts will be avoided or minimized, when feasible and prudent, through

project design, siting, timing, or other management options. Appropriate mitigation measures should be determined through consultation in accordance with *Coordination and Public Notice* Guideline C, page 2-5, and *Fish and Wildlife Habitat* Guideline A and H, page 2-6 and 2-8.

**B. Public Access For Subsistence and Traditional Uses.** The department will maintain public access to subsistence and traditional use areas unless reasonable alternative access is provided.

**C. Wood Harvest for Personal Use.** An important objective of forest management is to allow people to harvest firewood and house logs from state land for their personal use. Therefore, state lands should be available for personal-use wood harvest when consistent with management intent and guidelines for the unit.

**D. Coastal Policies.** The Northwest Arctic Borough (NAB) and Bering Straits CRSA Coastal Management Programs have subsistence policies that the department will follow when authorizing activities in the appropriate coastal district. These coastal plan policies are particularly significant to the people of this region and are listed below. Additionally, special coastal plan areas are identified in the appropriate management units of Chapter 3.

**BSCRSA Policy A-1. Subsistence use.** Subsistence use of the coastal lands and waters of the Bering Straits CRSA has traditionally been the primary and highest priority use of all lands and waters within the coastal management plan area; therefore, all other land/water uses and activities shall ensure that through careful planning, development, and operation of a resource extraction or development project, all steps will be taken to mitigate adverse impacts to subsistence resources and their use in accordance with BSCRSA policy F-2.

**NAB Policy A-1. Subsistence Priority.** Subsistence use of coastal lands and waters has traditionally been the primary and highest use of all lands and waters within the coastal management plan area; therefore, all other land/water management uses and activities shall accom-

moderate the use of subsistence resources in the planning, development and operation of these activities.

**E. Subsistence Activities and Traditional Land Uses.** Many activities related to subsistence do not require the issuance of permits. These are called 'generally permitted activities.' Examples of generally permitted activities are hiking, dog-team travel, snow machining, camping and warming fires, boating, establishing fish camps or hunting camps when camps are for individual and temporary use, harvesting wild plants, berries, or plant materials for personal use, and securing dead or downed firewood.

Permanent structures, such as cabins, will require a permit or lease on state lands. DNR can presently authorize structures through permits for remote cabins, trapping cabins, temporary tent camps, or through a cabin lease. Leases for private, non-commercial cabins are prohibited.

**F. Other Guidelines Affecting Subsistence Activities and Traditional Uses.** Several other guidelines may affect subsistence activities and traditional uses. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Coordination and public notice
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Grazing
- Heritage resources
- Materials
- Public access
- Public and commercial recreation
- Remote cabins and trapping cabins
- Settlement
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Subsurface resources
- Trail management
- Transportation and utilities
- Wetlands management